

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /085 W
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O R 210041Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6800
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS
SUBJECT: BEGIN PRIME MINISTER FOLLOWING KNESSET CONFIDENCE VOTE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. BY A MARGIN OF 63 TO 53, MENAHEM BEGIN TONIGHT
RECEIVED THE KNESSET'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, THUS BECOMING
ISRAEL'S SIXTH PRIME MINISTER. VOTING IN FAVOR WERE THE
LIKUD, NRP, AGUDAT YISRAEL, MOSHE DAYAN, AND SAMUEL
FLATTO-SHARON. ALL OTHER PARTIES VOTED IN OPPOSITION.
THERE WERE NO ABSTENTIONS. FOUR MKS WERE ABSENT,
INCLUDING THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR POALEI AGUDAT
YISRAEL WHO IS EXPECTED TO JOIN THE COALITION.

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2. THE VOTE CAME PAST MIDNIGHT, JUNE 21, AFTER AN
EIGHT-HOUR SESSION, AT THE BEGINNING OF WHICH BEGIN
PRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY OPPOSITION
LEADER SHIMON PERES, DMC HEAD YIGAEI YADIN, AND OTHER SPEAKERS
FROM EVERY PARTY. THE PENULTIMATE SPEAKER WAS MOSHE
DAYAN, AND THEN FINALLY BEGIN AGAIN IN REPLY. THE
ATMOSPHERE IN THE PACKED GALLERY AND IN THE CORRIDORS

WAS ALMOST FESTIVE AS FAMILIES, SUPPORTERS, AND WELL-WISHERS CROWDED THE KNESSET TO WITNESS THE FIRST CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL'S 29-YEAR HISTORY.

3. IN HIS INITIAL PRESENTATION, BEGIN NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, UPON ASSUMING OFFICE, HAD QUOTED FROM THE PROPHET MICAH. BEGIN TURNED TO ISAIAH: "AND THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES...". AFTER DECLARING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ASK ANY NATION TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST BUT ONLY ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND NEED FOR PEACE, BEGIN SPOKE OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. "WE SHALL ENDEAVOR TO DEEPEN THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THIS WILL BE THE FIRM FOUNDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. AMERICA AND ISRAEL HAVE IN COMMON NOT ONLY PROFOUND FEELINGS FOR THE FAITH IN THE VALUES OF MORALITY AND DEMOCRACY. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE UNITED ALSO BY A TRUE AND PROFOUND PARTNERSHIP OF INTERESTS. ISRAEL IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FREE WORLD. BUT THE FREE--THE DEMOCRATIC--WORLD HAS OF LATE GREATLY SHRUNK. IT MAY BE LIKENED TO AN ISLAND WHOSE SHORES ARE SWEEPED BY STORMY WAVES AND TEMPESTUOUS SEAS OF TURBID TOTALITARIANISM."

4. THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRIES SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED WERE FRANCE ("WE SHALL WORK FOR RENEWAL OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND FRANCE.") AND THE USSR ("WE ARE INTERESTED IN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS... RESUMPTION... DEPENDS ON MOSCOW'S INITIATIVE. WE SHALL DEMAND THAT AN END BE PUT TO PERSECUTION OF JUDAISM AND OF ZIONISM... THAT ALL PRISONERS OF ZION BE RELEASED AND EVERY JEW THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION SO DESIRING BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL".)

5. BEGIN RENEWED HIS CALL TO MEET WITH HUSSEIN, SADAT, AND ASSAD TO DISCUSS "TRUE PEACE," BUT HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE OF THEIR ACCEPTING HIS INVITATION. "SHOULD THIS PLEA ENCOUNTER REFUSAL, WE SHALL MAKE A NOTE OF THE ARAB INTRANSIGENCE."

6. BEGIN THEN PROPOSED A FIVE-POINT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM: (A) UNIVERSAL STATE HEALTH INSURANCE LAW; (B) A STATE-JURIDICAL ARBITRATION LAW FOR THE SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO THE PUBLIC AND THE COUNTRY; (C) MINIMUM WAGE LAW; (D) PENSION LAW; (E) HOUSING-RIGHTS LAW. HE REVIEWED THE AMALGAMATION OF CERTAIN MINISTRIES AND THE CREATION OF NEW ONES IN HIS PROPOSED

GOVERNMENT AND THEN PRESENTED HIS CABINET (SEE TEL AVIV 4449). HE CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY RECITING HIS GOVERNMENT'S 26-POINT BASIC GUIDELINE (TEL AVIV 4451).

7. DAYAN, WHOSE APPEARANCE ON THE ROSTRUM WAS A SURPRISE SINCE HE HAD NOT BEEN SCHEDULED TO SPEAK, NOTED VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S SAN FRANCISCO SPEECH WITH DISAPPROVAL. HE ARGUED THAT ALL PARTIES, EXCEPT SHELLI AND RAKAH, OPPOSE THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL DEMANDED BY THE ARABS AND THE NEAR TOTAL RETURN TO THE '67 LINES SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. IF AND WHEN THE ARABS PROPOSE TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, THEN THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCES AMONG ISRAEL'S POLITICAL PARTIES. UNTIL THEN, ISRAEL SHOULD PRESENT A UNITED FRONT. DAYAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FREQUENTLY HECKLED AND INTERRUPTED ("RETURN YOUR SEAT TO THE ALIGNMENT." AND "TELL US WHAT YOU'LL DISCUSS AT GENEVA."), ASSERTED THAT WHEN THE LIKUD ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO HONOR THE AGREEMENTS OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS, THAT MEANT IT IS PREPARED TO GO TO GENEVA UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS AS ITS PREDECESSOR.

8. IN HIS REBUTTAL TO THE MANY OPPOSITION SPEAKERS, BEGIN REFERRED TO GOLDA MEIR'S TOTAL REJECTION OF THE ROGERS PLAN AND SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE AGAIN RAISED THIS FORMULA. NOTING HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, BEGIN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD BE SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF THE WHOLE KNESSET, EXCEPT FOR ONE FACTION (RAKAH), WHEN HE DECLARES THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT RETURN TO THE LINES OF 1967, EVEN WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS THEREOF. THE SAME GOES FOR CREATION OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE. BEGIN NEEDLED PERES OVER THE LATTER'S HUMDRUM SPEECH. SAYING THAT HE INTENDED TO SERVE FOR FOUR YEARS, BEGIN BELITTLED ACCUSATIONS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON COLLAPSE. HE TOOK A POKE AT THE DMC FOR BELIEVING THAT IT WOULD DOMINATE THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, BUT EXPRESSED RESPECT FOR THE DMC'S LOYALTY TO ITS PRINCIPLES. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DMC TOMORROW. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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9. COMMENT: BEGIN WAS CONFIDENT, IN FULL COMMAND, AND OBVIOUSLY RELISHING HIS BIG MOMENT. HIS SPEECHES WERE HARD-HITTING IN TYPICAL BEGIN FASHION. IN CONTRAST, PERES, PRESENTATION WAS UNDISTINGUISHED, AND DAYAN APPEARED HAPLESS AND UNCOMFORTABLE UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE TAUNTS OF ALIGNMENT AND SHELLI MKS. END LIMITED
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, COALITION GOVERNMENT, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV04461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec9be378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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